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House Appropriations Committee

House, by 407 to 1, Votes \$70.3-Billion For Defense in '68

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WASHINGTON, June 13 —

The House passed today a \$70.3-billion defense money bill described by Congressional leaders as the largest single legislative appropriation in world history.

The vote was 407 to 1, sending the bill to the Senate. The single vote against was cast by George E. Brown Jr., Democrat of California.

Included is \$20.3-billion attributable to the war in Vietnam. However, both Democrats and Republicans predicted that additional billions of dollars would have to be appropriated later to finance the war in the fiscal year starting July 1.

The House shouted down an effort by Mr. Brown, a war "dove," to trim the over-all bill by 5 per cent.

The House Appropriations Committee had earlier cut \$1.3-billion from the Administration's \$71.6-billion request, but none of this was for war-related programs.

The so-called war "hawks" had their say, too, demanding a sharp escalation of the war.

If necessary, the United States should drop the atomic bomb on North Vietnam, said George Andrews, Democrat of Alabama.

"Why, North Vietnam isn't as big as the State of New Jersey," he said. "If we can't whip a little country like that, then we ought to beat our swords into plowshares."

Another Southern Democrat, Robert L. F. Sikes of Florida, suggested that the Pentagon "take a few lessons" from Is-

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rael on how to win a war.

"Whatever it is that one-eyed general has, we need it, too," he said, referring to Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, the Defense Minister of Israel.

The debate, which dragged on much of the day, was generally drab.

"This is a memorable day," George H. Mahon, Democrat of Texas, who is chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said as he opened the debate on what he called the largest money bill in history.

Members drifted on and off the floor. At times, less than 50 of the 434 members were present. At one point the few members present were so noisy, as they chatted among themselves, that Daniel J. Flood, Democrat of Pennsylvania, rose indignantly and observed:

"There's so much mumbling and bumbling going on that we sound like a high school debating class."

Rifle Training Backed

The House rejected an effort to prohibit the use of defense funds for subsistence and travel expenses of civilians attending national or international rifle competitions.

The bill provides \$428,000 for the Army's National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice. The board, headed by Defense Under Secretary David E. McGiffert, is in charge of building, equipping and maintaining rifle teams. It also oversees travel of rifle teams to competitions.

The House applauded an Appropriations Committee directive to the Defense Department to defer the major reorganization of the Army's Reserve and National Guard forces announced by the Pentagon last week.

The directive was in the committee report that accompanied the bill to the floor. While reports have no force of law, they generally serve as a warning to executive departments not to ignore Congressional demands.

The report said that the department's reorganization plan, which would eliminate 15 low-priority National Guard divisions should await approval by Congress.

While the bill is the largest single money measure in history, it falls short of the \$64.4-billion defense appropriations in 1944, during World War II. At that time, Army and Navy funds were considered in separate bills.

However, the new defense bill is well over twice as large as the \$34-billion appropriations measure that lumped together all Federal Government activities in 1950.

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